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Message Text

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46
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 SAB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 NIC-01

AF-10 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /148 W
---------- 103097
R 311409Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2604
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2960

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY/XF
SUBJECT: EBAN ON SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

1. FONMIN EBAN HAS LENGHTY SEPARATE INTERVIEWS IN THREE MAY 31 ISRAELI PAPERS IN WHICH HE COMMENTS ON SYRIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP AND ALSO (SEPTEL) CRITICIZES PM DESIGNATE RABIN.

2. EBAN GIVE FOLLOWING JUSTIFICATIONS FOR ISRAEL'S CONCLUDING AN IMPERFECT SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT: ALTERNATIVE WAS WAR; AGREEMENT WILL BRING POWS HOME; ITS SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION STRENGTHENS US AND WEAKENS SOVIET PRESENCE IN MIDDLE EAST; ISRAEL'S AGREEMENT TO IT IMPORVES ISRAEL'S POSITION WITH US; IT REDUCES DANGER OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANY FUTURE SYRIAN-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES (EBAN DID NOT EXPLAIN THIS); AND FINALLY, I MAY IMPROVE CHANCES OF REAL ISRAELI-ARAB
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DIALOGUE

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3. ASKED ABOUT US ASSURANCE EXTENDED TO ISRAEL TO
GET ISRAELI COMPLIANCE ON SYRINA DISENGAGEMENT, EBAN REPLIED
THAT NO US GUARANTEES ARE INVOLVED,BUT RATHER US DEFINITION
OF ITS RESPONSIBLIITIES FOR STRENGTHENING OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY
AND OF US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL " IN MANY FIELDS".

4. ASKED IF SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT HAVE
INCLUDED THE SAME PROHIBITION AGAINST PARAMILITARY ACTION AS
EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, EBAN RETORTED THAT US
SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL " TO HIT THE TERRORISTS" IS FAR MORE VALUABLE
THAN ANY SYRIAN COMMITMENT TO RESTRAIN THEM. MAXIMUM
ISRAEL COULD HAV OBTAINED WOULD HAVE BEEN PROHIBITION IN
LANGUAGE IDENTICAL TO EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT, AND SYRIA THEN
WOULD HAVE CLAIMED THAT SYRIA ITSELF DOES NOT CONDUCT PARAMILITARY
OPERATIONS.

5. EBAN CONTINUED THAT SYRIA PROBABLY RECOGINZES SIGNIFICANCE
OF US ASSURANCE TO ISRAEL ON TERRORISM AND, UNLIKE JORDAN
BEFORE 1970 AND LEBANON TODAY, SYRIAN GOVT AS AUTHORITARIAN
REGIME WOULD BE FULLY CAPABLE OF RESTRAINING TERRORISTS IN
PRACTICE. THERE UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD BE TEST OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS
IN THIS SPHERE IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. ISRAELI PUBLIC THEN WOULD
SEE GREAT VALUE IN " THE FACT THAT THE US WILL BE IDENTIFIED WITH
THE REACTING SIDE".

6. COMMENT. EBAN'S ASSERTIVE DEFENSE OF GOI'S ACCEPTANCE
OF ARRANGEMENT OMITTING SYRAIAN OBLIGATION TO CONTROL
FEDAYEEN REFLECTS FACT THAT THIS HAS BECOME DOMESTIC POLITICAL
ISSUE HERE. HIS REMARKS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE
EXAGGERATED PUBLIC EXPECTATION IN ISRAEL OF UNQUESTIONING US
SUPPORT OF FUTURE GOI ACTIONS AGAINST TERRORISM.
VELIOTES

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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